

Executive Summary

In reading this executive summary it should be noted that comparisons are made between precinct crime levels in 2004 relative to 2003. Please note that the boundaries of Precincts 01, 02 and 03 were changed on August 16, 2004. Crimes are counted based upon the precinct boundary existing at the time of the offense.

Total Crime in Baltimore County decreased by 2,663 incidents during 2004 compared to 2003, from 75,309 to 72,649, a decrease of 3.5%. **Part I Crime (Serious Crime)** decreased by 1,232 incidents during 2004 compared to 2003, from 34,154 to 32,922, a decrease of 3.6%. **Homicide** decreased by 2 cases or 6.5%. **Rape** decreased by 19 cases or 9.0%. **Robberies** decreased by 46 cases or 2.9%. **Aggravated Assault** increased by 44 cases or 1.0%. **Burglaries** decreased by 466 cases or 8.7%. **Theft** decreased by 352 cases or 1.9%. **Motor Vehicle Theft** decreased by 391 cases or 11.8%. **Arson** neither increased nor decreased.

There were 32,922 offenses classified as **Part I Crime** during 2004, compared to 34,154 for 2003. This represents a decrease of 1,232 crimes or 3.6%. **Part I Crime is the lowest reported since 1974.**

Part I Violent Crime (*homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault*) decreased by 23 cases (down 0.4%) with 6,147 cases in 2004 compared to 6,170 cases in 2003. Part I Violent Crime is below the previous 5-year average of 6,297.

Homicide decreased by two cases in 2004 compared to 2003. The 29 homicides in 2004 are below the previous 5-year average of 31 cases. Eight homicides occurred in North Point Precinct; five occurred in Woodlawn, Franklin, and Essex; two homicides occurred in Wilkens and Parkville; one occurred in Cockeysville and White Marsh; and, no homicides occurred in Towson Precinct.

The total number of **rapes** decreased from 211 cases during 2003 to 192 cases in 2004, a decrease of 19 cases or 9.0%. The number of rapes is below the previous 5-year average of 221. The number of rapes decreased in every Precinct except the Woodlawn, Towson, and North Point Precincts, which experienced an 8, 2, and 7 case increase, respectively. The highest volume change occurred in the Franklin Precinct, which had 11 fewer cases. In 62.7% of the cases, the victim knew the suspect prior to the offense.

Robberies decreased from 1,609 cases during 2003 to 1,563 cases in 2004, a decrease of 46 cases or 2.9%. The number of robberies is below the previous 5-year average of 1,663. The number of robberies increased in the Wilkens, Woodlawn, Towson, and White Marsh Precincts. All other precincts reported decreases with the greatest decrease occurring in Franklin, which had 56 fewer cases. Decreases were reported in all methods of attack except for "strong-arm", which increased from 689 cases to 708 cases.

The number of **aggravated assaults** increased from 4,319 cases in 2003 to 4,363 cases in 2004, an increase of 44 cases or 1.0%. The number of aggravated assaults is slightly below the previous 5-year average of 4,382. The number of aggravated assaults increased in Wilkens, Towson, Cockeysville, White Marsh, and North Point Precincts. The greatest volume change occurred in Essex Precinct, which had 80 fewer cases (down 10.6%).

Part I Property Crimes (*burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson*) decreased from 27,984 offenses in 2003 to 26,775 offenses in 2004, a decrease of 1,209 incidents or 4.3%. **Part I Property Crimes were the fewest number reported since 1973.**

Burglaries decreased by 466 cases (down 8.7%), from 5,372 offenses in 2003 to 4,906 offenses in 2004. The number of burglaries is below the previous 5-year average of 5,752, and *is the lowest reported since 1970*. The number of offenses decreased in all precincts, with the exception of North Point Precinct, which experienced an increase of 63 cases (up 8.9%). The greatest volume change occurred in Woodlawn Precinct, which had 134 fewer cases (down 18.0%). The value of property stolen during burglaries decreased by 10.8%, from \$8,012,332 in 2003 to \$7,150,757 in 2004.

The number of **thefts** decreased from 18,986 cases during 2003 to 18,634 cases during 2004, a decrease of 352 cases or 1.9%. The number of thefts is below the previous 5-year average of 20,404, and *is the fewest reported since 1973*. The number of thefts decreased in every precinct except the White Marsh, Essex, and North Point Precincts which experienced a 20, 206, and 178 case increase, respectively. The greatest volume decrease occurred in Franklin Precinct, which experienced a 278 case decrease (down 9.4%). The value of property stolen during thefts decreased 5.0% from \$12,930,405 in 2003 to \$12,282,874 in 2004.

The number of **motor vehicle thefts** decreased by 391 cases or 11.8% from 3,312 cases in 2003 to 2,921 cases in 2004. The number of motor vehicle thefts is below the previous 5-year average of 3,277. The number of motor vehicle thefts decreased in all precincts, with the exception of North Point, which reported a one case increase. The greatest decrease in the number of motor vehicle thefts was observed in Franklin Precinct, which had 86 fewer cases (down 16.2%).

There was a tendency for certain vehicle makes and models to be targeted in Baltimore County. The following table identifies the most frequently stolen makes and models during 2004.

Vehicle Make and Model	Number Stolen	% of Total Motor Vehicle Thefts
Dodge Caravan	146	5.6%
Dodge/Plymouth Neon	101	3.9%
Honda Accord	89	3.4%
Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee	73	2.8%
Honda Civic	71	2.7%
Plymouth Voyager/Grand Voyager	65	2.5%
Ford Taurus	39	1.5%
Toyota Camry	39	1.5%
Dodge Intrepid	38	1.5%
Chevrolet Cavalier	36	1.4%
Dodge Shadow	35	1.3%
Plymouth Acclaim	34	1.3%

Note: The number of vehicles stolen presented in the above table are taken from the Regional Crime Analysis System. Percentages are calculated based upon RCAS totals.

Arson remained the same with 314 reported arsons in 2003 and 2004. The number of arsons is below the previous 5-year average of 347. Wilkens, Franklin, Towson, Parkville, and White Marsh Precincts experienced an increase in reported arsons. The greatest reduction was observed in the North Point Precinct where arson fell by 33.8%, from 71 cases to 47 cases.

Part II offenses (less serious crime) decreased from 41,155 offenses in 2003 to 39,727 offenses in 2004. This was a decrease of 1,428 cases (down 3.5%) and is below the previous 5-year average of 40,716. The greatest volume change was observed in Franklin Precinct where Part II Crime decreased by 720 cases (down 11.7%).